

The output for 1931 (2,157,756 tons) is 384,336 tons less than that of 1930, and is the largest yearly decrease so far recorded. There was a steady increase since 1922 until this year.

In the Northern District there was an increased output of 68,587 tons consequent on the steam-driven power plant at Auckland being required to generate current while the hydro-electric-power station at Arapuni was under repair. In common with the rest of New Zealand the northern miners, owing to the decreased demand, suffered a great deal of idle time, but it is pleasing to record that there was little stoppage owing to labour disputes.

From the West Coast District the output was 395,577 tons less than that of the previous year, that decrease being due chiefly to the restricted use of bituminous coal and to frequent stoppages owing to petty labour disputes. The demand for coal for railway use is still much restricted owing to the trade depression, and there seems little likelihood of any improvement in that direction for some time.

In the Southern District the output shows a decrease of 57,346 tons. That decrease is most noticeable at mines supplying the better grade of household fuel, as the community is purchasing the cheaper fuels and farmers are even sawing down fir and other trees for domestic fires.

Much idle time was experienced at the Kaitangata and Ohai Mines, and at most of the latter the miners are still sharing the available work.

The production from and the number of persons employed at the collieries of the Dominion are shown in the following table:—

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1931.	Total Output to 31st December, 1931.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>					
			Tons.	Tons.	
Hikurangi	Hikurangi ..	Sub-bituminous	54,394	449,156	177
Wilson's	" ..	" ..	46,857	592,999	184
Rotowaro	Huntly ..	Brown ..	130,754	1,633,856	287
Pukemiro	" ..	" ..	110,069	1,996,777	236
Glen Afton	Glen Afton ..	" ..	185,202	1,365,575	430
MacDonald	Waikokowai ..	" ..	91,905	91,905	193
Renown	" ..	" ..	82,749	270,629	183
Egmont	Tangarakau ..	" ..	26,557	42,854	56
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport-Stockton	Ngakawau ..	Bituminous ..	107,356	2,902,398	306
Millerton	Millerton ..	" ..	71,757	8,143,313	389
Denniston	Denniston ..	" ..	133,762	10,106,876	487
Westportmain	Westport ..	" ..	14,758	172,098	45
Cardiff Bridge	Seddonville ..	" ..	20,624	210,904	29
Paparoa	Roa ..	Semi-bituminous	26,608	679,603	36
Blackball	Blackball ..	Bituminous ..	12,171	3,909,598	47
Liverpool (State)	Rewanui ..	" ..	120,840	2,284,787	347
James (State)	Rapahoe ..	Sub-bituminous	38,783	308,204	79
Dobson	Dobson ..	Bituminous ..	66,432	511,970	288
Wallsend	Brunnerton ..	" ..	58,861	373,860	173
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Shag Point	Shag Point ..	Brown ..	17,011	301,635	60
Kaitangata and Castlehill (3 collieries)	Kaitangata ..	" ..	92,773	4,884,809	245
Linton (2 collieries)	Nightcaps ..	" ..	90,516	822,065	180
Wairaki (2 collieries)	" ..	" ..	29,030	395,445	64
Mossbank (2 collieries)	" ..	" ..	45,669	360,164	76
157 other collieries	All coalfields ..	Various ..	482,318	7,807,693	1,148
Collieries abandoned or suspended, &c.	Various ..	"	25,379,374	..
Totals	2,157,756	75,998,547	5,745

SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Inspection District.	Average Number of Persons employed during 1931.		
	Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.
Southern	232	705	937
West Coast	698	2,049	2,747
Northern	484	1,577	2,061
Totals, 1931	1,414	4,331	5,745
Totals, 1930	1,437	4,430	5,867